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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO____

EXHIBIT

SUSIE ZAPATA and MONICA GARCIA,

3

Plaintiffs,

vs.

1:21-cv-00083-MV-JFR

LEON MARTINEZ, ROBERTA LUCERO-ORTEGA, ARTHUR SANCHEZ, BERLEEN ESTEVAN, and SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE, LLC,

Defendants.

VIDEOTAPED ZOOM DEPOSITION OF SARAH JOHNSON

Monday, June 6, 2022

Albuquerque, New Mexico

PURSUANT TO THE NEW MEXICO RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, this deposition was:

TAKEN BY: STEVEN ROBERT ALLEN, ESQ.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

REPORTED BY: TERI WARD, RPR, CCR #549

PAUL BACA COURT REPORTERS 500 4th Street, Suite 105

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Page 6 Page 8 1 space maybe and then give an answer and then go back 1 So during the -- during the year of 2 2 2018, it was literally on and off because my then and forth without that sort of overlap that's 3 3 typical of a more casual conversation. Make sense? supervisor Cabrerro was preparing to retire, so he 4 4 would be gone for a week or two here or there. Yes. 5 5 And same with yes-or-no questions. In From -- from mid June 2019 through the O. 6 time that I left, June 30, 2021, I was almost always 6 an ordinary conversation, we may go uh-huh or I 7 7 acting supervisor. There were two or three months might shake my head or something like that. In this 8 where we -- they had hired a supervisor, and she was 8 context, we need a clear yes, clear no to a 9 9 there, but she became very ill very quickly, so was yes-or-no question. Make sense? 10 really only there for a few of those months. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Okay. That makes sense. Was that sort 11 Okay. Let's see, what else? I think of the highest position that you held while you were 12 12 the questions I have will be pretty short, but, you 13 at the women's prison? 13 know, we have up to four hours to do the deposition 14 A. Yes. 14 as a -- because you're a non-party witness. 15 O. Okay. And that's a leadership position, 15 If you need a break at any point, just 16 16 correct? let us know, and we can do that. If there's a 17 A. Yes. Department head of the education 17 question on the table, if I or one of the other department. 18 18 attorneys has asked a question, you'll need to 19 Q. Okay. Sounds good. Let me see. I want 19 answer that question and then we'll take the break. 20 to ask you -- as you know, this litigation is about 2.0 Make sense? 21 an alleged rodent infestation at the women's prison. 21 A. Yes. 22 I want to just ask you generally what you may know 2.2 Okay. Did you review any materials in about that. 23 23 preparation for the deposition this morning? 24 Well, I mean, it was apparent from day 24 A. 25 one that there were mice and other kinds of rodents 25 Q. Okay. I'm just going to jump in, then. Page 7 Page 9 1 1 My understanding is that you worked at the women's around the facility. Throughout my time there, it 2 2 prison in Grants for some time. Can you tell me started as when I was a reentry specialist doing 3 what -- when that was? 3 reentry classes, students would come in with 4 My first day at Western New Mexico 4 complaints about what was going on in the kitchen 5 5 Correctional Facility, the -- now called The North. and in the dining hall. 6 6 At the time, that was the only state facility in I brought in ACA Annmarie Perez to talk 7 town, now the state runs both. 7 to the class on how to properly put in a grievance, 8 So the women's facility on Lobo Canyon 8 and over the next year and a half, two years that 9 Road, I started on December 3, 2017. My last day 9 was done. They documented when they made a 10 was June 30, 2021. 10 complaint, who they made a complaint to, where it 11 11 Okay. Great. And tell me what -- what was on the facility, would bring it to my class, and 12 position or positions did you hold while you worked 12 I would place it in her mailbox. And this happened 13 13 sporadically for probably almost two years. 14 Initially, I was hired as the reentry 14 Q. Can I ask, so it sounds like the inmates 15 specialist and college facilitator on and off. For 15 were giving you the grievances, and then you were 16 two thirds of that time, I was also the acting 16 passing them along to the ACA for --17 supervisor, head of department, GED instructor, 17 A. Oftentimes, yes. There are grievance 18 cognitive instructor, and registrar. 18 boxes that they could put them in, but she gave 19 And let me make sure I understand. You 19 permission to at least the one class that she spoke 2.0 were acting supervisor of which department? 20 with that she would give -- that I could take them 21 A. The education department. All 21 and put them in her mailbox, and I did that often. 22 education. 22 Can I ask, why did she do this -- the 23 23 All education. Okay. And approximately training? Did the inmates not understand --24 when did you fulfill that role? You said it was on 24 I actually asked her to. 25 and off. Do you remember the time periods? 25 MS. PULLEN: Objection.

Page 10 Page 12 1 THE WITNESS: The --1 MS. MOULTON: Objection to foundation. 2 THE COURT REPORTER: Sorry, I didn't get 2 Form. 3 the objection. And, I'm sorry, if you could wait 3 MS. PULLEN: Join. 4 4 until he finishes the question. Thank you so much. BY MR. ALLEN: 5 MS. MOULTON: Objection to form. 5 Or every month or every year? 6 6 Foundation. More than every month. I won't say 7 7 THE COURT REPORTER: All right. Thank weekly either, but more than every month. 8 8 Okay. And what were the inmates saying vou. 9 BY MR. ALLEN: 9 roughly, or what do you recall their story was to 10 Q. That reminds me, Ms. Johnson. I should 10 you? 11 insert that now. It's my fault more than yours. 11 A. Okay. Well --12 THE COURT REPORTER: Was that an Occasionally, the other attorneys -- or 12 13 13 objection, Ms. Moulton? maybe not occasionally, they can do it as often as 14 they'd like -- may object to one of my questions. 14 MS. MOULTON: Yes, sorry. Objection to 15 That's the most likely time when people will be 15 form. 16 16 speaking over each other because you'll be giving THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. 17 your answer, and they'll be trying to insert the 17 THE WITNESS: Often it was rodent 18 objection. 18 excrement in food, in the -- rodents in the kitchen, 19 19 So if you hear them do that, just give a rodents in B Dining. We also had bird issues. Now, 20 little pause so they have the opportunity to 20 the dining hall is an open room. There's a door in 21 register that objection so the court reporter can 21 the front and a door in the back, so birds would fly 22 22 get it in the transcript, and then go ahead and through. There were numerous issues that upset the 23 answer the question. We just need that objection 23 inmates over the years. 24 for the record. It won't prevent you from going 24 BY MR. ALLEN: 25 25 Can you estimate the number of inmates ahead and answering. Page 11 Page 13 1 1 Does that make sense? that brought these concerns to you over the years? 2 MS. MOULTON: Objection. Foundation. 2 A. Okay. So still answer? 3 3 Q. Yeah. Yeah, my fault. Form. MS. PULLEN: Same objections. 4 Okay. I thought it was a big enough 4 5 issue with the students coming into education that I 5 THE WITNESS: Less than 20, but again, 6 personally asked ACA Perez to come and speak with 6 those are the students that were in my classes. 7 7 the class on what the proper grievance process was. BY MR. ALLEN: 8 Q. Okay. And did you -- why did you think 8 Q. Okay. At what point did you start 9 9 it was such a problem that required that sort of thinking that maybe they were onto something in 10 extra work on your part? 10 terms of the validity to their concern? 11 MS. MOULTON: Objection to form. MS. MOULTON: Objection to form. 11 12 THE WITNESS: Because there were 12 Foundation. 13 complaints around the kitchen, the dining food, 13 MS. PULLEN: Join. THE WITNESS: Well, a timeframe on that 14 cleanliness often. I don't know if you want me to 14 is difficult to answer. What I can say is the 15 say -- I can't -- you know, I don't want to say the 15 16 word daily, but often. 16 particular class that I invited Ms. Perez to is one 17 BY MR. ALLEN: 17 of the first that I started probably in March of 18 Q. Okay. And I also -- I didn't mean to 18 2019, and it probably went -- these classes, you 19 19 know, completely rotate and you get a new set of put words in your mouth. Did you personally feel it 20 was a significant problem at the prison, the --20 students, and they run for maybe three months. So 21 A. Yes. 21 it had to be sometime between March and May of 2019. 22 22 BY MR. ALLEN: Q. -- presence of rodents? 23 23 A. Okay. And how about your own -- what 24 Okay. And so you weren't getting these 24 you saw with your own eyes and ears. Like, what --Q. 25 complaints daily. Were you getting them every week? 25 did you see evidence yourself of rodents at the

Page 14 Page 16 1 prison? 1 there. I think they had in B Dining the traps where 2 2 they go in a box and can't get back out again. A. Yeah. We had mice in the education 3 building, too. There were not -- it was not an 3 Um-h'm. I see. 4 infestation, but they were certainly there. 4 Can you tell me -- you know, you mentioned at one point that some of the inmates 5 Okay. And the -- go ahead. Sorry. 5 6 6 The education building is in what I talked about actually finding rodent feces in their 7 7 would call the same corridor as the dining hall, the food. Did you ever see or have evidence of that 8 8 same piece of building. yourself? 9 9 Q. Okay. And did you ever go into the A. Yes. On a few occasions, inmates 10 kitchen or the dining hall yourself? 10 brought food into the education building that they 11 A. Yes. 11 claimed came from B Dining hall that they were 12 And how often did you enter those two Q. 12 served that clearly had feces in it. 13 13 How do you know? Like, what did it look places? Q. 14 The kitchen, not more than a couple 14 like? 15 times a month. B Dining, sometimes to see if our 15 A. Tiny little black dots. 16 people were being called for chow any time soon and 16 And so how did you know those tiny black Q. 17 sometimes just to see who was in the chow hall. So 17 dots were rodent feces and not, I don't know --A. I didn't. That's why I said what they 18 I could say a weekly basis easily. 18 19 Q. Did you ever see rodents or evidence of 19 claimed was that it was rodent feces. 20 rodents in those two places yourself? 20 Okay. Have you seen rodent feces before 21 A. Yes. 21 like outside of the prison? 2.2 22 Describe those times. Yes. Well -- oh, yeah, sure. 23 In the kitchen I can't say that I 23 Q. Did it look similar in any way or 24 actually saw rodents, but I had been in there a few 24 different? 25 times when the workers were either looking for them 25 MS. MOULTON: Objection to form. Page 15 Page 17 1 1 or seemed to be looking for a problem. With the B MS. PULLEN: Same objection. THE WITNESS: Similar. 2 Dining, I mean, you just -- you saw them. They were 2 3 3 just around. I --BY MR. ALLEN: 4 What were they -- what were they -- what 4 Q. Um-h'm. Okay. How many inmates brought 5 5 did you see them doing? food to you with what they alleged was rodent feces 6 6 A. Running. on it? 7 7 Uh-huh. Were they --Three, perhaps four. Q. A. 8 8 Mice don't want to be around you when Q. Okay. And at what -- what timeframe did A. 9 9 they see you coming. this happen where the inmates brought you this food 10 Were they on the floor? Were they on 10 with what they alleged was rodent feces on it? Q. 11 11 the tables? That's hard to say. I can't give a time 12 12 of year. Sometime during the 2018 -- probably A. On the floor? 13 summer to fall. 13 Q. 14 No, on the floor. 14 Q. Okay. Let's see. So you mentioned that Α. 15 15 Q. Okay. while you were acting supervisor of education, you 16 They were around outside in the 16 were in a leadership position, right? You were --A. 17 17 that was a department head position? walkways. 18 Okay. And did you see traps of any kind 18 A. Yes. Q. while -- while you worked at the prison? 19 19 Q. Is that correct? 20 2.0 A. A. 21 21 Q. What kind, do you remember? What did Okay. And my understanding is there 22 they look like? 22 were somewhat regular meetings with department heads 23 23 at the prison; is that correct? We -- yeah, we had -- unfortunately, we 24 had some live traps in the education building. We 24 A. At that time there were. 25 never trapped anything. They weren't what I wanted 25 And how frequent were those meetings?

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

	Page 18		Page 20
1	A. They could be as frequent as weekly. I	1	Q. Approximately, around a dozen, maybe
2	would say three times a month at least.	2	less?
3	Q. Okay. And who attended those meetings?	3	A. Ten, yeah.
4	A. Warden, deputy well, warden, deputy	4	Q. Ten to 12 is an estimate?
5	warden, if there was one, department heads, high	5	A. Okay. Yes.
6	level security people, probably one person from	6	Q. You would agree with that estimate?
7	STIU. I don't know all the ranks. They called it	7	MS. PULLEN: Objection to form.
8	the department head meeting.	8	THE WITNESS: Yes.
9	Q. Okay.	9	BY MR. ALLEN:
10	A. You know, the major was there,	10	Q. Okay. And I understand, yeah, these
11	generally.	11	things happened a long time ago. No one's going to
12	Q. Okay. And who was who served as	12	get these metrics precisely. I'm just trying to
13	warden while you were in that position, department	13	gauge your memory of how often it came up.
14	head position?	14	Who brought up the issues in these
15	A. For the most part, it would be Warden	15	meetings, in your recollection?
16	Martinez and then acting Deputy Warden Vigil.	16	A. That I cannot give a good answer to. I
17	Q. Was one of the defendants in this	17	I can remember the discussions happening. Was it
18	litigation was Roberta Lucero-Ortega. Was she	18	on the warden's agenda and he came to that bullet
19	warden while you were serving in that position?	19	item? I can't really say that I have that good of a
20	A. I think there was one, at most two	20	recollection.
21	meetings that I went to as acting head when she was	21	Q. Do you remember who participated in the
22	still warden.	22	discussions?
23	Q. Okay. I want to ask about two other	23	A. Yes. I I can remember a couple of
24	defendants in this litigation, whether they attended	24	meetings in particular. Do you want to okay.
25	those meetings. The first is Arthur Sanchez, who	25	Q. Yes.
	Page 19		Page 21
1	served as FSSO. Did he attend those	1	A. Then Major Tom Trujillo and Ms. Estevan
2	A. He I can't say he attended every	2	were actually trying very hard to press for
3	meeting, but he was a person who generally was at	3	solutions to the issue, and the warden participated
4	those meetings.	4	in the discussion. I mean, it it was it was a
5	Q. Okay. Another defendant is the Summit	5	large discussion at the table.
6	Food Service director, I think was her official	6	I was usually in the background. But
7	position. Her name was Berleen Estevan.	7	there was a period of a couple of meetings where the
8	A. Yes, that is correct. Again, I couldn't	8	major and Ms. Estevan were really trying to get
9	say she was at every meeting, but she was the head	9	something done.
10	of the department and in most of them that I can	10	Q. And what did they want done?
11	remember.	11	A. Better storage containers is the one
12	Q. Okay. And now what I want to ask you is	12	thing I remembered the most being discussed. You
13	whether the presence of rodents at the prison was	13	know, how how what traps they were using I
14	discussed at those meetings ever?	14	remember being discussed. But again, I I can't
15	A. Sometimes, yes.	15	I remember some of those little boxes, but I
16	Q. And how how often do you think it was	16	can't remember what else they did, whether or not
17	discussed?	17	they they put out any chemicals or anything. A
18	MS. MOULTON: Objection to form.	18	lot of it was storage of food.
19	MS. PULLEN: Same objection.	19	Q. Did they talk about what type of pest
20	BY MR. ALLEN:	20	control company might they might hire to address
21	Q. More than once?	21	the issue?
22	A. Yes.	22	MS. MOULTON: Objection to form.
23	Q. Okay. Was it more than a dozen times?	23	MS. PULLEN: Join.
24	A. I'll say no, because I can't I can't	24	THE WITNESS: I don't remember any
25	give a number like that, but it was in that realm.	25	outside company being discussed, which doesn't mean
		I	

	Page 50		Page 52
1	Q. Okay. And what was her response to	1	the college program was long-term as well as the
2	that?	2	environmental literacy programs. So I had groups of
3	A. She would get them and process them as	3	students for longer periods of time than let's say
4	they should be.	4	the cognitive instructors or even some of the ABE
5	Q. Any anyone ever bring any grievances	5	instructors.
6	back to you and ask you to and ask for assistance	6	Q. Okay. All right. So so just to be
7	in appealing the grievances?	7	clear, then, over the years, over the two years that
8	A. No.	8	we talked about, which would be 2018 to the time you
9	Q. Did you ever hear any inmates discuss	9	left, maybe 30 inmates complained to you about
10	the grievance the appeal process?	10	about rodents; is that correct?
11	A. Yes.	11	A. Yes.
12	Q. And what did you hear?	12	Q. What other things did they complain
13	A. I really can't recall the particulars.	13	about?
14	I know that there is a process for appeal, there's a	14	A. The the birds going in and out of B
15	timeframe on it. You know, there's a timeframe	15	Dining, the cleanliness process of the trays, either
16	they're supposed to get the grievance back, a	16	not being cleaned or having cleaning products left
17	timeframe that they can write to Santa Fe. I	17	on it, the grievance process, not getting answers to
18	honestly don't know the details of how that's	18	grievances. The disciplinary process, the you
19	supposed to work.	19	know, the the inconsistency sometimes of how
20	Q. Okay. And did you did you ever talk	20	things were handled.
21	to Annmarie Perez about about the appeal process	21	Q. Okay. Anything else?
22	or	22	A. Boy, issues with commissary, writing
23	A. No.	23	debit memos and not having the right commissary, and
24	Q. Okay.	24	the process to get that rectified, changing
25	A. Nope.	25	commissary vendors, and issues with MP3 players and
	Page 51		Page 53
1	Q. Did you talk to anyone about the appeal	1	kiosks. I mean, that yeah. It's like
2	process of a grievance?	2	Q. Every aspect of
3	A. When you say talk to anyone, you know, I	3	A. If I thought for a long time, I could
4	worked in the education department, so as staff we	4	come up with others, yeah.
5	certainly heard inmates talking about it and	5	Q. Well, let's talk about the birds, the
6	discussed it ourselves that that at least there	6	birds in B Dining. Did you ever talk to anyone
7	was one, but I can't tell you how it's supposed to	7	about the problem that that problem?
8	work. I know there's timeframes on it.	8	A. Well, when you say talked to anyone, did
9	Q. Okay. All right. I'm sorry, I'm just	9	I report it to anyone, no. But there were
10	going through my notes.	10	conversations. And and to be, you know, factual,
11	A. No, take your time.	11	the conversations were B Dining is open. There's an
12	Q. Okay. You said Mr. Allen asked you a	12	open door in the front and an open door in the back,
13	question about the number of inmates or how many	13	and birds are going to fly through. That that
14	inmates complained, and I think you said less than	14	was the gist of the conversation.
15	20 of the inmates complained to you.	15	Q. Okay. So then under that context, who
16	A. Yes.	16	did you report it to?
17	Q. Is that is that for the entire two	17	A. I didn't report it. That's what I'm
18	years?	18	saying. It was really you know, we people
19	A. For for two years I could honestly	19	talked about it on the facility.
20	and logically bump that to about 30, but you need to	20	Q. Okay. All right. And then you talked
21	remember that education is only a certain percentage	21	about the cleanliness process, and did did you
22	of the population, and it's small right there. And	22	report any cleanliness issues to to anyone?
23	then to be trusted to even receive a complaint from	23	A. No.
24	an inmate takes some time.	24	Q. Okay. Did you talk to to Major
25	So the good fortune of my job is that	25	Trujillo about inmate concerns about the cleanliness

Page 66 Page 68 1 before, that's why someone like Ms. Zapata would 1 front office, in the library, the back corridors. I 2 2 have spent so much time in a reentry class because can't -- I can't say that there wasn't a room that 3 we would excuse -- give an excused absence if they 3 we didn't see one or more in at some point in time. 4 4 had to be on a kitchen shift because that's not a Q. Okay. And how many times, 5 5 piece of curriculum that you're going to miss. approximately? 6 6 You're just going to do it the next time you come to A. I can't give you a count. I would say 7 7 that we were seeing them randomly right up until class. 8 Gotcha. So it's sort of a -- a floating 8 right before I left. Q. 9 9 class that you can --And did you -- did you have any sense Q. 10 10 over time that you got less complaints about mice? A. Yes. 11 Q. -- proceed through at your own -- at a 11 Yes. Well, at -- over time there were 12 12 pace that allows you to continue to work? less grievances given to me overall, so whether that 13 13 was mice or everything else --14 14 Q. Okay. And I take it you never saw Q. Did -- do you recall if you had less 15 15 actual dead rodents? discussion with inmates about mice over time? And 16 16 by that I mean between 2018 and when you left. No. No, we luckily never got any 17 trapped in our traps in education. 17 A. Yes. 18 MS. MOULTON: Pass the witness. 18 Q. All right. So let me talk to you about 19 that. You said -- you said that you had snap traps 19 **EXAMINATION** 20 in education? 2.0 BY MS. PULLEN: 21 A. Yes. I found one in my office, and I 21 Q. Ms. Johnson, my name is Lisa Pullen. 22 22 can't say how many months into the job, but it was Can you her me okay? 23 -- so it was probably early to mid 2018, and I just 23 A. I can. 24 Okay. Thanks. I represent Summit Food 24 popped it and threw it away. I don't know who set 25 it there. It was clearly there before I got there. 25 and Ms. Estevan in this case. And this is going to Page 67 Page 69 1 1 No one ever came to check on it, and I didn't ask just skip around a little bit because I'm going 2 2 about it. third, but basically, wanted to find out if you had 3 There were a couple in the library as 3 any other conversations with anyone else who worked 4 well, and I'm not sure whatever became of them. 4 for Summit Food other than Ms. Estevan? 5 5 And did they have mice in them? Q. A. 6 6 Α. No. Nor -- nor any food, so --Q. And for the entire time that you were 7 7 Q. Okay. And so you don't know who set the with the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility, 8 8 trap? was Ms. Estevan the food service director? 9 9 A. A. Yes. She -- she was still there when I 10 Q. Did you ever see anyone set the traps in 10 left I'm -- I'm pretty sure. I -- I know she's not 11 11 there now, but -- but I'm pretty sure she was still -- in education? 12 12 A. No. I -- my assumption was they were there when I left. 13 And when you started, she was the food 13 set at some point, and no one ever came back to 14 14 service director? check on them. 15 Q. And did you ever see actual mice in --15 A. She's the only one that I can remember, 16 in the education --16 so I'll say yes, but -- but I -- I can't be 17 17 Yes. Oh, yeah. positive. Α. 18 Okay. And did you ever -- did you ever 18 Q. While you worked at the facility, the Q. 19 prison, was it always just women inmates? 19 trap one? 20 20 A. Yes, yes. A. No. 21 21 Q. Did you ever trap one? What -- what would you describe your 22 22 interaction with Ms. Zapata as? Was she A. 23 23 Q. And where did you see the mice in particularly friendly with you as far as 24 24 interaction? education? Yes. I -- we had almost no incidents 25 In my hallway, in my office, in the 2.5